

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 1st March 2026 *Second Sunday of Lent/St David*

Vicar: Revd Carol Backhouse 07857 449724
24 Wentworth Drive, Lancaster, LA1 3RJ

www.christchurchlancaster.org.uk Facebook: @ChristChurchLancaster



a vibrant, inclusive
worshipping
community

**Everyone is welcome to
join us in worship this
week:**

Today - 1st March

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

5pm *Lent Group*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Tuesday

No *Evening Prayer*

Wednesday

5.30pm *Meditation* and 6pm
Evening Prayer

6.30pm *Lent Group*

Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*

Sunday - 8th March

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

5pm *Lent Group*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Prayer for this week

Almighty God, by the prayer
and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery
of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Little Seedlings

Every Tuesday from 9am in the Church
Hall for under 4s and their parents/
carers

Children's Church

welcomes primary-aged children during
the 10.30am service during term time.
Parents/guardians are welcome to join in.

Messy Church - 22nd March

On the 4th Sunday of the month at 4pm
in the Hall for KS1/2 children



Loop
facility



Please ask the Stewards for directions and assistance.

Please send items for inclusion in this newsletter to Jacqueline Stamper by Thursday lunchtime. Many thanks.

Please remember in your prayers:



Those who are sick:

Youngblood McCray, Thomas Platt, Yan Connell, David Foster, Ron Holmes, Ann Boss, Geoffrey Heywood, Christine McCrann, Richard Jones, Marlene Phillips, Jenny Lowe, John Lyth, Freda Jackson, Julie Withers

may God's healing, wholeness and peace be with them.

Those who have died recently

Muriel Grice.

may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

In our parish, we ask God to bless and provide:

For those who live and work in Mannin Way, Caton Road, Langdale Road.

For armed forces personnel and their families.

For Kim, as she prepares to be our Parish Administrator

may God's loving kindness be found and shared.

Tuesday Evening Prayer

At 5pm most Tuesdays, the clergy say Evening Prayer over Zoom. If you'd like to join to give thanks for the day past, readings from the Scriptures and prayer, the details are:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81366929814?pwd=jTDuVW7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjJqVS.I>.

Meeting Up.

The clergy are available for pastoral support and spiritual direction, so please don't hesitate to be in contact. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time or is seriously ill, please let us know as soon as possible, to arrange prayers, home communion, a hospital visit, or anointing of the sick. If you would like us to pray for you, or for someone you know, for any reason, please email your request to

revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com Please ask the person's permission if you'd like them included in the weekly notices.

Choir Church - Friday 20th March

Please join us at Christ Church Primary School for our next Choir Church Service (led by our children) at 3.15pm on Friday 20th March. Our Choir are also singing at Blackburn Cathedral on Tuesday 3rd March at 5.30pm Everyone welcome!

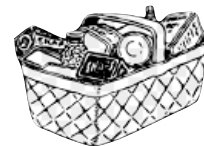
Lent at Christ Church

Please take one of the free booklets from the back of church to accompany you through Lent. You may also like to join the Lent Course looking at Paula Gooder's book *Women of Holy Week*, led by Rev'd Kaarina on Wednesdays at 6:30pm or Sundays at 5pm.

Mothering Sunday

As part of our service on the 15th March, we will be taking a collection of toiletries for our local refuge. If you can bring shower gel, shampoo, sanitary towels, tampons, deodorant, soap and other pamper products, please give generously.

In Other News...



The Olive Branch Foodbank

The Olive Branch badly needs all kinds of long-life food and drink - please bring a tin or packet to church with you to leave in the collection crates. You can also give money for them to buy what people need: <https://www.the-olivebranch.org.uk/donate/>

Chimney Tops and Spire Appeal

Urgent repairs are needed to our church chimney and spires to make the building watertight and safe - 170 year old mortar has washed out, causing damage inside the building. We need to raise £10,000 ourselves before we are eligible for grant funding. Please would you help? Pick up a flyer with details of how to donate. (See elsewhere for information about contributing ideas for fundraising events We're getting closer to the target - can you help us get over the line? Thank you in advance.

Hall improvements - appeal for loan of decorating equipment

The new kitchen is very impressive, but has shown up the need for re-painting. We have volunteers to help with the work on 10th March, but if you could possibly help by lending paintbrushes, rollers, paint trays, or dust sheets, that would be great, thank you..

Hall for Hire

Don't forget that the Hall is available for hire, especially during the day and at weekends. £24/first hour and £12 for each subsequent hour/part-hour. Please contact Lorna on hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk or 07808 76536 for more information.

Gardening Group



Our friendly gardening group meets on the first Friday of each month (6th March) between 12noon and 2pm to keep our church garden looking lovely. New members welcome, for all or part of the time - contact lippittjane@gmail.com. Please bring gloves & secateurs if you have them.

Book Group



The church book group meets on the first Friday of each month (6th March) at 4 pm in the church hall. Anyone who enjoys reading and discussion is very welcome to join us. You can just turn up on the day, speak to Joyce, or send an email to joycelynch1946@gmail.com

Craft Group

.... meets in the Hall most Tuesdays at 11.30am. Everyone welcome - bring your own project, or share in one of the others on the go! No prior experience needed. Please talk to Julie Buckley if you'd like more info.

Choir

Our Choir rehearses on Thursdays 7-8:15 pm in Church. We're a friendly and supportive bunch who welcome new singers. Please contact grahamtoft1@aol.com if you'd like to know more.

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



Genesis 12.1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

*This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 121

*Refrain: **The Lord shall keep you from all evil.***

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not suffer your foot to
stumble; he who watches over you
will not sleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over
Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

*Refrain: **The Lord shall keep you from all evil.***

5 The Lord himself watches over
you; the Lord is your shade at your
right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you
by day, neither the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall keep you from all
evil; it is he who shall keep your soul.

8 The Lord shall keep watch over your
going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

*Refrain: **The Lord shall keep you from all evil.***

Romans 4.1-5,13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is

written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

*This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **John 3.1-17***

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Prayer after Communion:

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Community at Christ Church:

Eco-Group Thought/Action for the Week



Do you want to take urgent action to tackle the plastics crisis? One way to do this is to join the Big Plastic Count (9th to 15th March) and provide evidence to keep pushing the government into further action. <https://share.google/O4uOCRlwlXx3RfT88>

Are you concerned about climate change, and caring for Creation?

If so, contact joycelynch1946@gmail.com to find out if our active Eco Group is something you'd like to be part of - it meets every six weeks at a member's home.

Youth Group

Innes has started a new group for Year 6 upwards, meeting on the last Friday of the month, 3:30-5 pm, in the hall. The next will be on 27th March. All are welcome. Please share this with any youngsters you know.

Would you welcome a lift to church? Why not join the FunBus?

Do you or someone you know need a lift to church? If you're finding it difficult to get to church services (perhaps especially in the winter months), we're organising a "bus" to bring people to church. Please contact Rev'd Kaarina if you're interested.

Thought for the Week

Keeping relationships at the centre seems to me where sound theology and good business practice come together. Hold on to that and I believe big or little, global or local, the bodies we build can be both better and more beautiful. *David Walker, Bishop of Manchester*

Giggle (or Groan) of the week - suggestions welcome!

For Lent this year, I'm just giving up.

Save the date ! - Lent Lunch - Friday 27th March

On Friday 27th March, all welcome at the Vicarage (24 Wentworth Drive) for a simple Lent Lunch of homemade soup, raising funds for Christian Aid, starting at 12.30pm

Thank you! - Chinese New Year Banquet

Thank you to everyone who came to or helped with the fabulous Chinese New Year Banquet on Shrove Tuesday. It was a wonderful occasion, and great to see so many people enjoying themselves. Particular thanks to Rev'd Kaarina and Innes for all their cooking and food preparation. We raised over £500 towards the Chimney Tops and Spires Appeal! Well done, everyone!

Thank you! - Table Top Sale

Thank you to all who helped with or came to the Table Top Sale yesterday, and special thanks to Clare Mumford for organising it. Another valuable contribution to the Chimney Tops and Spires Appeal, thank you!

Greetings from Barbara Johnson

Barbara sends warm wishes from Scotland to all who remember her. Sadly, Martin is far from well, but Barbara continues to care for him at home, with support from carers and family. We hold them all in our prayers.

Supporting Christ Church

EasyFundraising

Did you know you can support Christ Church for free when you shop online? Register using <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and the brand's commission will go to church.

Fundraising - ideas, opportunities, and support needed!

We're blessed to have received some generous grant funding for the work we need to do on the building, but we still need to raise the match funding we still need from our own resources. You're welcome to send more ideas to buckleys@live.co.uk. if you're able to send a financial contribution by using the QR code below, thank you. We're getting closer to the target, so anything you can give would be much appreciated.

Supporting Christ Church - One-Off Gifts

If you would like to make a one-off donation to the church as an offering, to pay a fee, or as a gift to regular funds, you can give through our 'Give a little' page: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/f63a0655-b270-4d05-bf35-3994747785d0> This will also give you the option to Gift Aid your donation (if you pay tax in the UK), enabling the church to get an extra 25p back from the taxman for every £1 you give.



Supporting Christ Church - Regularly

If you're able to support Christ Church via a direct debit donation, you can do this via the Parish Giving Scheme. Every penny goes to our church, and it's easy to review how much you give depending on circumstances. Online at www.parishgiving.org.uk Or by telephone 0333 002 1271 Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm. For any of these methods our PGS code 030603240 ensures that your gift goes to our church.

PCC

Our PCC met on the 4th February. We discussed plans for the Annual Meeting and the year ahead. Please do talk to your PCC reps about any aspect of life at Christ Church, and pray for the PCC in it's work this year. You might want to use the following prayer:

Lord God, Together with you by our side, we can bring growth to our Church. Send your Holy Spirit to give us good planning, wise actions, joy in worship and our welcome, the right words when we speak to others. Help our Church grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Please pay your sponsorship for Susan varnishing the wooden floors

Susan Brooks has now kindly sanded and varnished the wooden floors in church. Please pay your sponsorship if you haven't already done so? Thank you to Susan and sponsors.

Coffee with the Curate - Mondays from 9th March at the Gregson

Come along and join Rev'd Kaarina for a brew (on her) and a chat on Mondays at the Gregson Centre, any time 10am-12 noon starting 9th March. No booking needed..

Key contacts:

Vicar:	Rev'd Carol Backhouse 07857 449724 revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com
Curate:	Rev'd Kaarina Leong 07749 489623 curate@christchurchlancaster.org.uk
Children's Ministry Leader	Innes Heron-Stamp 07853791776 children@christchurchlancaster.org.uk
Church Warden:	Greg Skelland. 07944 683847 churchwarden@christchurchlancaster.org.uk
Director of Music:	Graham Toft grahamtoft1@aol.com
Notices:	Ms Jacqueline Stamper 01524 64083 j.stamper@btinternet.com
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Emma Muckalt & Ms Debbie Steele 07547 717060 safeguarding@christchurchlancaster.org
Parish Secretary:	Mrs Julie Buckley 07717824574 buckleys@live.co.uk
Hall Bookings:	07808 765364 hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk
Christ Church School	Miss Emma Simpson 01524 60955

If you'd like to keep in touch with Christ Church news, events, prayer and worship, please complete a contact card from the pew-end and return to Rev'd Carol

Promoting a Safer Church

If you believe that someone is at risk of immediate harm please call emergency services on 999. Any safeguarding concerns in a parish should be brought to the attention of your Parish Safeguarding Officers, Debbie Steele and Emma Muckalt, who can be contacted as above. Concerns can also be raised directly with our Diocesan Team, Tel: 01254 503088 or email safeguarding@blackburn.anglican.org

Children's Church

... is an important part of our church life, and one of the ways children learn more about Christian faith. If you can offer one Sunday morning each a month (or more if possible) please have a word with Innes. An Enhanced DBS check will be arranged. *All children need to be accompanied to church by a parent/guardian, please.*

Little Seedlings

Our baby and toddler group, Little Seedlings, meets 9-10.30 every Tuesday in the Church Hall. If you know someone with a child 0-4 who would like to come along, please invite them. It's free!

Welcome to our new Parish Administrator!

Kim Robinson will be starting in March as our new parish administrator. Kim brings extensive experience from her previous role in the NHS and will be a blessing to Christ Church. Please keep her in your prayers as she prepares for the role.